FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 MAY 1984

Libya

Shooting in Tripoli — "Heavy shooting" broke out 8 May around Al-Aliziyah barracks, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's headquarters, according to a diplomatic source in Tripoli cited by AFP. A 15-man commando group attacked the barracks, the agency said. According to BBC, it is not known if the shooting was linked to an attempt against the Libyan leader.

Dispute With UK — Britain's "frenzied campaign" of police harassment, arrests, and "savage torture and terror" on "direct orders" from the prime minister "will not pass peacefully," the Libyan newspaper *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* warned according to JANA. The paper announced that arrests of Libyan students and tourists and false accusations against them in British courts will prompt the revolutionary committees to "engage in a violent backlash" against British citizens residing in Libya, JANA reported.

Meanwhile, Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio claimed that members of the "terrorist group" that carried out the "criminal action" against the Libyan People's Bureau in London, which is "protected and managed" by the British Government, were apprehended trying to enter Libya from Tunisia. The group intended to carry out assassinations and sabotage in Libya, the radio alleged.

Lebanon

Political Situation — Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri will be appointed minister of state for the affairs of the south and reconstruction in addition to his other ministerial posts, Prime Minister Rashid Karami confirmed in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio. Birri noted that his conditions for joining the Cabinet have now been met and stressed the need for a "jihad" to liberate the south, unite and reconstruct the country, and achieve "justice," the radio reported. Meanwhile, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt agreed to join the Cabinet and, although former President Sulayman Franjiyah maintained his critical stand on the Cabinet issue, he will not place any "burden" on the national unity government, the radio said. Birri and Junblatt were encouraged to participate in the government because the whole Cabinet is to function as the Higher Defense Council, according to opposition sources cited by the radio.

Security/Military Situation — As militiamen in West Beirut fired into the air to celebrate Birri's appointment, Phalangist artillery positions in East Beirut opened fire at the western sector "in an attempt to exploit and torpedo the situation," Beirut radio asserted. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian artillery south of Al-Batrun fired at an Israeli gunboat offshore. The vessel was not hit and returned the fire, the radio said. Damascus radio did not confirm the firing but reported Israeli naval movements off the Lebanese coast, describing them as part of the "acts of provocation" by the Israeli invasion forces.

Syria on Radar Station — Noting reports that an Israeli-U.S. team has established a radar station south of Jazzin linked to a NATO ship patrolling the Lebanese coast, an *AL-BA'TH* editorial reviewed by Damascus radio urged the Arabs to take a "serious" view of this project, which could turn the Israeli plan into an "American network enjoying all the advantages of modern U.S. technology." Syria will not allow such hostile activities on Lebanese soil to become a "fait accompli," the paper added.

Israel

Shamir Interview — Israel has no additional military goals in Lebanon and is not interested in remaining there, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in an interview with Jerusalem radio. He reaffirmed that Israel will be able to withdraw the IDF after it has made arrangements that guarantee "Galilee's" security against terrorist attacks.

TNT Threat to Austria — The Israeli Terror Against Terror (TNT) organization has written journalists in Vienna demanding that Austrian authorities halt their "anti-Israel" policy and warning that TNT will have no pity for "pro-Arab circles" in the Austrian leadership, Jerusalem radio reported. The letter accused former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of betraying the Jews.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes struck "two large naval targets" believed to have been carrying oil from Khark Island, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio announced, citing a military spokesman. Radio Monte Carlo quoted reports from London that the Saudi oil tanker *Uhud* "was hit by a missile" when the ship was 80 miles from Khark.

PLO Affairs

Jordanian-Palestinian Talks — Jordanian-Palestinian talks have reached the "point of agreement and coordination" and have "come close" to a "confederation project," the Jordanian newspaper *AD-DUSTUR* claimed. A Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has been formed to tour Arab and Islamic states to inform them of the results of the talks, the paper added.

PLO Operations — The PLO will escalate its military operations against the Israeli forces in the occupied territories in the "coming few days," PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir disclosed according to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. Al-Wazir said Fatah is planning "painful blows" against the enemy.

Algiers Meetings — Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf arrived in Algeria for consultations with the PFLP and the DFLP, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Khalaf and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah were received by President Chadli Bendjedid, Algiers radio announced.

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200 Masud Reinforcements Killed in Gunship Attack

BK081253 Hong Kong AFP in English 1238 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Islamabad, May 8 (AFP) — Some 200 Afghan rebels sent to back beleaguered guerrillas in the Panjsher valley north of Kabul were killed in a Soviet helicopter gunship attack last Wednesday, Western diplomatic sources said. A rebel contingent of over 300 men from western Afghanistan was spotted in open terrain in the strategic valley, the target of a two-week-old offensive by Soviet and Afghan Government troops, the sources said. About 200 were gunned down in a hail of Soviet rocket and automatic rifle fire.

A convoy of rebels began heading for the Panjsher valley from the western province of Nuristan at the start of the Soviet offensive to reinforce the troops of Commander Ahmad Shah Masud. Diplomats here citing week-old reports from the valley which has been cut off from the rest of Afghanistan since late last month said rebels had not yet begun to counterattack. Rebels have been reported holding their fire in the face of a what is described as the largest Soviet military operation in Afghanistan since the December 1979 invasion, involving some 15,000 Soviet troops.

Soviet forces meanwhile have set up a bridgehead at Khenj, a village located two-thirds up the 70-mile-long valley, at a point where the highway gives way to a dirt road. Diplomats said troops and supplies parachuted into the valley since May 1 appear to be coming directly from the Soviet Union. They said the villages of Rokha, Onawa and Bozorak had been heavily reinforced, a signal that Soviet troops have opted for a lengthy occupation of the valley, long a symbol of the Moslem resistance.

Unconfirmed reports from Kabul said Mr Masud has retreated to the town of Pule-Khumri in the Hindu Kush Mountains north of the Panjsher valley, according to diplomats here. Rebel spokesmen in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar have said the young leader was in the valley alongside his men, while diplomatic sources said he was in the Kabul vicinity at the start of the offensive, reaching the north of Afghanistan through the Andarab Valley which is controlled by his guerrillas.

Meanwhile, the official Kabul radio insists daily that Mr Masud's men have "capitulated," but it has not reported his whereabouts.

Quoting colleagues close to the communist bloc, diplomats here said Soviet troops were encountering difficulties in their mop-up operations against guerrilla strongholds in the Panjsher valley. They dismissed reports from Kabul that Soviet troops had penetrated up to the Anjuman Pass located at the northern edge of the valley. According to Moslem rebels, the Soviet Union's [forces] had been helicoptered into the end of the valley and were driven back by rebel units.

Government Forces Said Withdrawing to S. Panjsher

BK071541 Hong Kong AFP in English 15 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Islamabad, May 7 (AFP) — Soviet-Afghan troops have withdrawn to the lower half of the strategic Panjsher valley after "failing to consolidate" their position in the northern Afghanistan guerrilla stronghold, a spokesman of the resistance group Jami'at-e Islami said here today.

Quoting latest reports reaching the Pakistani border town of Peshawar via a messenger from Panjsher, the spokesman said indiscriminate Soviet bombing had continued in several parts of the valley since the spring offensive mounted by the Soviet-Afghan forces on April 20, causing heavy casualties on both sides.

The offensive was the seventh successive Soviet attempt to take back the valley from rebel control. The previous six attempts proved indecisive against reportedly thousands of mujahidin under the command of Ahmad Shah Masud.

The spokesman said Mr Masud had also sent a detailed letter to Jami'at-e Islami's headquarters in Peshawar and full information should be available within the next two or three days. The messenger claimed that the Soviet-Afghan troops had failed to gain a hold in the central Panjsher and had withdrawn a week after the attack to the small town of Rokha. The second part of Panjsher, called Hissa-e-Daum, is under mujahidin control, the spokesman said.

Fighting was heavy for the first three days, he said, adding that several hundred Soviet and Afghan soldiers were killed in the prolonged resistance by the mujahidin. The first clash took place outside the valley in Shutoll village where some twenty Soviets and around 300 Afghans soldiers died, he said.

The Soviets twice attempted to parachute troops into the valley but failed because of stiff resistance by the guerrillas. But ground troops under full air cover managed to enter the valley, he said, adding that they succeeded in reaching the middle of the valley and beyond.

The Moslem resistance fighters continued their pressure on the invading troops "which forced them to retreat", the spokesman said, quoting the messenger who participated in the fighting alongside the mujahidin.

"The enemy troops are now back in Rokha," he said adding that the Soviet MIGs were carrying out regular bombing raids in Bazarak and Hissa-e-Daum and in other parts of Panjsher. Details of losses were awaited, he said.

Radio Kabul last night reported that an Afghan Government delegation visited Rokha and Unab towns and issued orders for "speedy restoration of normal life" in the valley.

Pakistani Arms Buildup 'Cause of Concern'
BK081001 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The defense minister said Pakistan's massive arms acquisition is naturally a cause of concern for India. Mr Venkataraman told the Rajya Sabha today in response to a calling-attention motion moved by Mr Jaswant Singh, Bharatiya Janata Party, and others that Pakistan has been continuing with its arms buildup with the help of the United States and other countries. Some of the newly acquired sophisticated weapons were tried out during the recent winter military exercises in Pakistan.

The defense minister also pointed out that bulk of the Pakistani Army has been deployed on India's borders. Pakistan has taken up a program of developments of roads and other infrastructure close to its border with India, including occupied Kashmir. Their troops have been resorting to unprovoked firing across the line of control. It could have led to escalation but for the utmost restraint by our troops. Violations of airspace by Pakistani aircraft are also not uncommon.

Mr Venkataraman said India has been deeply concerned at the recent media reports on Pakistan having attained the capability of producing weapons-grade enriched uranium. This has grave security implications which India can ill afford to ignore.

The defense minister assured the house that the government is fully aware of the gravity of the situation and our Armed Forces are fully prepared to meet any contingency. In spite of all these developments, India is persevering in its policy of peace with Pakistan. India sincerely hopes that Pakistan will reciprocate its efforts to improve relations and would not do anything detrimental to such efforts.

No Agreement With Bangladesh on Border Fence
BK080842 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 8 May 84

[By Sabita Goswani]

[Excerpts] Gauhati, India, May 8 (AFP) — India and Bangladesh have failed to reach agreement at a first round of talks on India's building of a controversial barbed-wire fence along its border with Bangladesh, officials said here today.

New Delhi says it wants to fence off the 3,200 kilometre (2,000 mile) border to check the alleged influx of illegal immigrants from its neighbour into India's northeastern states.

The officials said that the failure of a first round of talks on the fence issue with Bangladesh and the onset of the monsoon was likely to delay the project.

Dhaka, which denies any exodus into India, holds that the barrier violates a 1975 border agreement.

Officials involved in the fence-building said today that an early resumption of work was a remote possibility now that the monsoon had set in.

THE STATESMAN newspaper reported from Haridaspur in West Bengal, venue of Indo-Bangladeshi sessions, that the first round of talks had failed. The session lasted 90 minutes and the newspaper quoted both sides as saying "we have agreed to disagree on the issue." *THE STATESMAN* held that it was now "almost certain" that the fence issue would be taken up at a political level.

Meanwhile, an M.P. of the ruling Congress (I) Party has told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the fencing project should be entrusted to the Border Road Organisation and not the Central Public Works Department. The Road Organisation, which is federally cntrolled and an offshoot of the Defence Ministry, is helped by the Army. "We have received reports of Army fortification by the Bangladesh authorities along the border...we are maintaining a strict vigil," said the M.P. who asked not to be identified.

Rao Notes Government Concern Over Sri Lanka Situation
BK070923 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was told today that the Government of India has conveyed its concern over the developments in Sri Lanka and stressed the need to take urgent measures to defuse tension which is mounting in the northern and eastern provinces of that country. The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, who was replying to a calling attention motion on the recent reported killings of Tamilians of Indian origin in Sri Lanka, said the government has also expressed concern over the stalemate in the political dialogue.

The minister was making a statement in response to the motion moved by Mr V. Gopalaswamy, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, and 21 others. Mr Narasimha Rao said the government has received reports of large-scale arrests and of the Jaffna area being cordoned off by land and by sea. He said we also understand that the Sri Lankan naval vessels have been stationed off the Sri Lankan coast to restrict movement of vessels. This is a matter of serious concern.

Mr Rao said the government has brought to the notice of the Sri Lankan Government that the presence of a large number of troops in Jaffna is aggravating ethnic tension and in the process of attacks and counterattacks the lives of many innocent people are being lost. This atmosphere of confrontation might vitiate the search for a political solution.

The minister said the Sri Lankan Government has reported that they have taken firm action in the concerned regions against the militants with a view to avoiding the recurrence of ethnic violence.

Mr Rao expressed the hope that the all parties' conference in Sri Lanka on the 9th of this month would break the deadlock so that a lasting solution could be found to the ethnic problem. He said India stands for the integrity and unity of Sri Lanka and is opposed to all forms of violence.

'Honest Broker' Role Viewed

BK071514 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 18 Apr 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Make a Fresh Start"]

[Text] The visit of Sri Lanka's National Security Minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, to Delhi last week has hopefully cleared the air with regard to renewed misgivings on both sides about Indo-Lanka relations. Revived ethnic tensions following terrorist attacks in the Tamil north and security operations have unfortunately placed a strain on good neighbourliness. The Government of India has categorically repeated that it is firmly committed to the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka and has explained that non-official rhetoric should be discounted and that while sentiments in Tamil Nadu cannot be ignored, foreign policy is made in Delhi, not Madras. The Minister was also reassured that the Government of India is not running training camps for Tamil Eelam terrorists down the Coromandel coast. Mr Athulathmudali for his part emphasised that his Government is seeking a political and not a military solution to the Tamil question and that its anti-terrorist drive should not be misunderstood otherwise; that Sri Lanka is not seeking any military alliances or entanglements such as leasing Trincomalee as a foreign military base (to counter a threat of Indian invasion); and, further, that India is welcome to participate in Sri Lanka's share of equity in the proposed contract with a Singapore-West European consortium to run the Trincomalee oil tank farm if it is so inclined and if this will allay suspicions about the motive underlying the deal. Sri Lanka also sees a Marxist dimension to the terrorist movement which carries it beyond Eelam. However, all said, Colombo needs to do more to assuage Tamil fears and grievances.

Although Indo-Sri Lanka relations have a bearing on the environment in which the Tamil question is perceived, the central focus must remain on finding a just and amicable settlement of the ethnic discord that has divided the Island. The round-table, earlier stalemated, has been adjourned until May 9 to give sufficient time for cool reflection and informal discussion. The Sri Lanka view is that better the talks proceed slowly than break, as the latter would inevitably lead to more tensions and trouble. This is undoubtedly true. The regional council idea embodied in the so-called Annexure C has run into strong Sinhala opposition and is seen both as Indian-sponsored and a stepping-stone to Eelam. Hence the search for a new step by step approach starting with according greater responsibility for development, education and local security to district councils which might then informally come together for certain purposes and gradually acquire a structure. TULF would be unwise to rule this out of hand as it could grow into something approximating a regional council over time, given goodwill and understanding. Meanwhile, it is for Mr Amirthalingam and his colleagues to spend time in Sri Lanka discussing these and other ideas with Sinhala and Tamil critics rather than issue broadsides from Madras or run up to Delhi constantly. TULF has no future whatsoever if it appears to be an Indian appendage.

The Indian Government too needs to discourage the notion that it is or can be some kind of an umpire in the Sri Lanka round-table. The role of honest broker may not be exhausted but it cannot be forced. Nor should competitive Tamil Nadu politics fasten on to Sri Lanka as an issue with Mr Karunanidhi threatening revival of DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] secessionism if the Indian Government does not "act", the Chief Minister, Mr M. G. Ramachandran, talking of meeting the Eelam terrorist groups in Tamil Nadu, and Mr Amirthalingam pleading that M. G. Ramachandran weld these fragmented groups into one. This is irresponsible chatter. The Centre cannot plead helplessness without appearing to connive. It can convey its displeasure at such antics. Sympathy for the Sri Lanka Tamils is understandable but should not and need not run counter to friendship with and the stability of Sri Lanka.

'Terrorist Acts,' Arrests Continue in Punjab, Haryana

BK071005 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] In Amritsar, one person was injured when some unidentified youths fired at him this morning. In another incident a brick kiln owner was shot at and seriously injured in a village near Chawk Mehta in Amritsar District this morning.

In a violent incident last night, one person was killed and one injured when some armed miscreants fired at them in village (Chikatiwal) in Ferozepore District. The victims were sitting in their house when they were attacked.

In Haryana, the railway police have arrested three members of a gang of terrorists while they were planning to commit a decoity [burglary] on the Janata express train at a wayside railway station near Ambala on Saturday night. While two of them were caught on the spot, the third one was arrested near Sonepat. The other two managed to escape. According to a police spokesman in Chandigarh today, the gang is believed to have been assigned the task of committing terrorist acts in the state. A revolver, a pistol, and some cartridges have been recovered from the three arrested persons.

21 Arrested in Haryana

BK071255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The Haryana police have arrested 21 persons in connection with various terrorist incidents in the state. These include two terrorists arrested at Nasik, Maharashtra, who attacked the deputy speaker of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha [legislative assembly], Mr Ved Pal, near Karnal during March this year. The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, told newsmen in Chandigarh that the weapons and motocycles used in the attack have also been recovered. Ten people were arrested earlier in this connection.

9 Arrested in Punjab District

BK080933 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] In Ferozepore District of Punjab, nine extremists have been detained under the National Security Act for their alleged antinational activities. Senior Superintendent of Police Mr A.

Siddiqui told All-India Radio Ferozepore correspondent that cases of six other extremists are under process.

Mr Siddiqui said that during raids carried out in various parts of the district, 25 arms of various types were recovered. These include three revolvers with Pakistani marking.

Reports of the arrests of some terrorists near Ludhiana today have also come in. A large number of arms and ammunition have been recovered from them.

Tension High in Amritsar

BK071120 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 7 May 84

[Mark Tully report in "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] Tension remains high in the Indian city of Amritsar in Punjab State. Violence has again broken out between the paramilitary police and Sikh extremists, and one person was shot dead. Mark Tully sent this report from Delhi:

The exchange of fire followed a statement by the Punjab State governor that law and order in the state was satisfactory. It also followed the wedding of six prominent members of the Sikh Students Federation in the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The federation, which is loyal to the extremist leader, Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, has been banned by the government. One of those married was the secretary of the federation who is known to be wanted by the police on charges of murder and robbery. Bhindranwale was among those who spoke at the wedding. He entered the large hall where some 2,000 people had congregated toward the end of the ceremony surrounded by 15 armed men. Bhindranwale spoke of the religious significance of marriage. The leader of the Sikh religious party was not present at the wedding, and there appears to be no sign of a reconciliation between the leader of the Sikh religious party and Bhindranwale. All the young men getting married wore belts strapped over their shoulders carrying revolvers and ammunition. Some of the young men in the congregation carried automatic weapons with telescopic sights. Others had less sophisticated weaponry. There are still sandbag emplacements on the roofs of the temple buildings, but the temple remains open to the public, and apart from searching cars, the police made no attempt to stop anyone trying to enter.

Night Curfew in Hubli Remains in Effect

BK071207 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] In Karnataka, night curfew was clamped for the third day yesterday between 2100 to 0600 in parts of Hubli as a precautionary measure. According to authorities the situation is peaceful and under control.

Meanwhile, with the death of one person in hospital last night the toll in last Friday's police firing has risen to eight.

AEC Commission Chairman: Soviet Reactors Offer 'Good'

BK071635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Indian scientists have developed a new mixture to be used as nuclear fuel for the fast breeder reactor — FBTR — at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu. Announcing this the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr Raja Ramanna, told a news conference in New Delhi that with the new mixture the reactor can start functioning by the end of this year. The mixture consists of plutonium, uranium, and carbide. The FBTR is a highly complex reactor, and the countries like France and the Soviet Union use a different mixture to run it. The earlier idea of using French fuel was dropped, as that turned out to be very expensive.

Dr Ramanna said that by the turn of the century atomic power produced in the country will be on the order of 10,000 megawatts, which will be 10 percent of the total electricity produced. If it is found that we may fall short of meeting this target, the reactors offered by the Soviet Union may be bought to fill the gap. He described the Soviet offer as good but said discussions are still going on about it.

Dr Ramanna, who was assisted by a team of colleagues in replying to a barrage of questions from newsmen, expressed his distress at adverse publicity in a section of the press about certain aspects of the nuclear power program. He said scientists of his organization are doing a commendable job and should be encouraged.

Dr Ramanna said the research reactor at Trombay, called Dhuva, will be commissioned in about 3 months. The second unit of the Madras atomic power station is likely to function in about a year.

The director of the heavy water project, Dr Srinivasan, told the news conference that India is now self-sufficient in heavy water and heavy water technology. Only for the first unit of the Rajasthan power station heavy water has to be imported. He said the Tuticorin heavy water plant is a success story and has been continuously working at 80 percent efficiency for over 3 months.

Dr P.K. Iyenger, director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Center, said technology has been developed to contain waste inside concrete containers (?enclosing) glass cases.

Experiments are going on at Kolar gold mines in Karnataka to explore possible sites for permanent burial of radioactive waste. He said a new atomic reactor has been developed which uses manmade material processed from thorium sand of Kerala coast. The reactor can produce power as long as thorium supply lasts.

Dr M.R. Strinivasan, director of the Atomic Energy Commission power project, said the fault of the first unit of the Rajasthan power plant has been identified and a solution to the leakage found. He expected the plant to be commissioned soon. He also said spare parts of the Tarapur atomic reactor are being developed indigenously.

Moderate-Intensity Earthquake Hits Northeast 6 May

BK070909 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] In Assam, an earthquake of moderate intensity rocked Gauhati and its adjoining areas last night. No report of damage to property or loss of life has been received so far.

No Casualties Reported

BK080436 Hong Kong AFP in English 0429 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] New Delhi, May 8 (AFP) — Residents scrambled out of their houses in panic in several places in India's northeast following an earthquake which lasted from 10 seconds to one minute on Sunday, a delayed news agency report said today. The intensity of the tremor which hit four states was not measured, but several houses developed cracks and window panes of many homes were broken, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. There were no known reports of casualties.

However, in the confusion the driver of a jeep belonging to the Border Security Force in Karimgunj District of Assam State lost balance and hit a rickshaw injuring three occupants. An angry mob later set the jeep on fire, PTI said.

The states affected by the tremor were Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

Antidysentery Campaign in Northeast Stepped Up

BK071015 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Efforts to control dysentery which is raging in an epidemic form in the northeast is continuing. Measures have been taken on a war footing.

In West Bengal, the death toll from the bacillary dysentery and enteric diseases has reached 1,400, with 54 people dying in the last 24 hours. This was stated by the West Bengal health minister, Dr Amaresh Mukherjee, in Calcutta yesterday. He told newsmen that the number of affected persons has gone up to 38,000.

In Assam, according to official reports dysentery and gastroenteritis have so far claimed 47 lives and affected over 2,500 people.

In Tripura, the disease has claimed at least 180 lives and affected about 2,000 persons in the past 1 month.

Briefs

TV Network Expanding — The TV network is being expanded in the country by setting up 144 high speed and lower power transmitters to relay TV programs through INSAT-1B for nearly 70 percent of the population. Stating this in the upper house of Parliament today during question hour, the information and broadcasting minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, told the house that INSAT-1B is proposed to be utilized for expansion of TV services in the northeastern region, extending coverage to about 80 percent of the population of the area. The scheme is under implementation, he added. [Text] [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 30 Apr 84 BK]

Increase in Exports — Highlights of India's foreign trade during 1983-84 was an increase in the growth rate of exports and the decrease in imports. The commerce minister, Mr V.P. Singh, said this at the parliamentary consultative committee of his ministry in New Delhi today. Export between April 1983 to January 1984 was over 7,807 crore rupees. This is about 13 percent higher than the corresponding period of the previous year. Import was placed at 12,102 crore rupees. [Excerpt] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 Gmt 3 May 84 BK]

Mizoram Ministry — In Mizoram, the new Congress-I ministry headed by Mr Lal Thanhawla was sworn in today. The lieutenant governor, Mr H.S. Dubey, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the ministers at a simple ceremony at Raj Niwas [governor's house] in Aijal. [Excerpt] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 May 84 BK]

FRG Aid Increase — The Federal Republic of Germany has increased its annual financial aid to India by 23 million Deutsche marks. It will now give 360 million, against 337 million Deutsche marks last year. An agreement to this effect was signed in Bonn this week between officials of the two countries. It will also give over 117 million Deutsche marks as export credit for the purchase of goods by India from that country. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 May 84 BK]

Ziaul Haq Chairs Federal Cabinet Meeting

BK071649 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] A meeting of the federal cabinet was held under the chairmanship of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. The meeting devoted much of its time to reviewing measures being taken for implementation of the process of Islamization in the country. The cabinet meeting, which lasted for 7 hours, also reviewed the country's internal situation. The meeting began with a recitation of a verse from the Holy Koran and its translation by the federal minister for culture and sports, Mr Niaz Mohammad Arbab.

Opposition Leaders Hold Meeting in Lahore

GF071051 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 7 May 84 p 7

[By correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad — The Central Committee of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) is meeting in Lahore today to formulate its positions on some important issues and discuss the outline of its future strategy.

For the first time in three years some of the top brass of the alliance who have remained interned most of the time during this period will sit together to tackle both organisational and national issues.

Among those who are already in Lahore include Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Ghaus Bukhsh Bizenjo, Wali Khan, Mian Mahmud Ali Oasuri, Sherbaz Mazari, Khawaja Khairuddin and Maulana Shah Mohammad Amroti.

Other party chiefs or prominent figures of the component parties like Air Marshal Asghar Khan, Meraj Mohammad Khan, Rasool Bukhsh Paleejo, Fateyab Ali Khan and Mustafa Jatoi are still in jail while Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto are out of country. Entry of Jamiat-i-Ulema Islam [JUI] General Secretary Maulana Fazlur Rehman has been banned in Punjab.

The MRD will probe the possibility of partyless elections, broadening the alliance to admit some other parties outside its fold, its position on the JUP [Jammat Ulema-I-Pakistan] proposal for a grand assembly on its one point agenda for restoration of democracy. It also plans to chalk out its future course of action in what is commonly described as second round of the civil disobedience movement.

The quantum of provincial autonomy in a future democratic set-up is likely to be hotly debated during the meeting. Leaders like Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo of PNP [Pakistan National Party] emphasise that political parties should reach an understanding before elections on amending the constitution in an elected parliament to enhance quantum of provincial autonomy to the satisfaction of smaller provinces.

The issue has assumed great importance in the background of intensity of MRD movement in Sind.

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan who pleads for broadening the MRD base to include such parties as Jamaat-i-Islami, JUP and Muslim League, will brief the committee about his recent discussions with leaders of these parties.

Some components of the MRD oppose any overtures to Jamaat for bringing it into the MRD fold. They point out to its close links with the military regime and think it will prove a trojan horse in any confrontation with the government.

Air Marshal Asghar Khan's son Omar Asghar Khan in an article published in daily *MUSLIM* yesterday bitterly attacked the Jamaat and thought that the Jamaat leaders were approaching MRD parties in order to rehabilitate themselves and restore their credibility with the people which has been badly bruised by its long association with and support to martial law.

The convenorship of the alliance will also be an important issue before the committee. In the past it rotated every month among components but for last about ten months it has remained with JUI.

Most of the components favour convenorship for a comparatively longer period. If the committee also concurs the likely candidates for next period would be Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan or Ghaus Bukhsh Bizenjo.

PDP Leader Rejects Ziaul Haq Political Plan

GF071325 Karachi DAWN in English 29 Apr 84 p 16

[Text] Lahore, April 28 — The PDP [Pakistan Democratic Party] president, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, on Saturday ruled out the possibility of accepting the presidential framework of August 12 as a basis of a future political set-up maintaining that "we can do so only by negating our stand and condemning the very existence of the MRD."

Asserting that there could be no two opinions on the subject, he said that there could be no meeting ground with the government as the framework was unacceptable to them from beginning to end.

The veteran leader was participating in the 'Tajzia' [analysis] programme of the Lahore Press Club. He covered the entire gamut of issues facing the nation, fielding a volley of questions in his own inimitable style.

He said that no political worker could ever rule out dialogue as monologue was the 'prerogative' of dictators alone. However, negotiations with the government could take place only if the latter took steps to restore the confidence of the political parties by agreeing to hold elections under the 1973 Constitution.

He maintained that the MRD did not want transfer of power without elections. All it was demanding was that the elections should be conducted under the 1973 Constitution to which Gen Ziaul Haq had committed himself in 1977. He regretted that the president was coming out with new proposals every now and then, making the confusion worse confounded.

He demanded that the Constitution should be restored in its entirety as no individual or organisation had the right to amend it outside parliament.

Answering a question, he said that he was an optimist by temperament and that explained why he was hopeful about the restoration of democracy. He said he could predict it with a degree of confidence that the government had exhausted its 'natural life'. Once a government had lost its confidence, it could never regain it, come what may.

Asked if there was any conflict between the Western and Islamic forms of government, he said it was indeed unfortunate that unnecessary and irrelevant issues were being raised at this critical juncture. He wanted to know as to why had the Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, other front-rank leaders of the Pakistan movement and even religious leaders chosen to contest elections, both before and after the establishment of Pakistan, under the parliamentary system. "How is it that the un-Islamic nature of Western democracy did not dawn on them?" he asked.

In reply to a question, he said that negotiations could be held on the question of revival of the democratic process between the parties in and outside the MRD as the politicians always kept their options open, without compromising on principles. He was personally hopeful about the prospects of cooperation with parties outside the MRD as he has enjoyed friendship with their leaders and had been associated with them in the past.

He was of the opinion that elections on non-party basis could not restore democracy even by one per cent. In fact, the step would take the country back to one hundred years. Mian Tufail, he said, had the right to have his personal views on the subject but he would stick to his view that non-party elections were a retrogressive step.

He said that the two parties which were outside the MRD shared the objective of restoration of democracy. Their leaders had expressed the parties' willingness to contest the elections under protest. He made a pointed reference to the statements of Prof. Ghafoor Ahmad in which he had hinted at the possibility of the revision of their stand provided all other parties insisted on multi-party elections alone and said that he would try his utmost to bring about a consensus.

When his attention was drawn to various statements made by Mr Mumtaz Bhutto, Mr Ataullah Mengal, Mr Rasul Bakhsh Paleejo and others maintaining that the 1973 Constitution was no longer relevant, he said the MRD had been founded on a four-point programme. The question of amending the Constitution should be left to the elected assembly which could change it in its entirety. If the MRD had set up a committee to deliberate over the quantum of provincial autonomy there was no harm in it as the issues could be discussed to arrive at an understanding.

He said that his party's stand on Afghanistan was very clear: "We have been demanding that the people of Pakistan should run the affairs of the country and we demand the same rights for the people of Afghanistan." He maintained that arrangements should be made for the repatriation of three million refugees in an honourable manner. He noted that Pakistan might not be in a position to bear the expenses of the refugees by itself for a long time and the other nations might lose interest in sharing the burden after some time.

New Ordinances Restrict Religious Titles, Actions

BK271035 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The president has promulgated an ordinance which has come into force with immediate effect. Under the ordinance, Sections 298B and 298C have been added to the Penal Code. Under Section 298B, it has been laid down that any person who calls himself Ahmadi, either belonging to Qadiani or Lahori group, orally or in writing, or (?through) any action calls any person Amir-ul-Mominin [commander of the faithful], Khalifat-ul-Mominin [caliph of the faithfuls], Khalifat-ul-Muslemin [Caliph of the Muslims], Sahabi [one of the companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad], or Radhi Allah Ta'ala Anho [May Almighty God be pleased with him], although he is not from among the caliphs of Nabi Akhir-uz-Zaman, Muhammad, Sallallaho 'Alaihi Wasallam Wa Ashab [the last of all prophets, Muhammad, peace be upon him and his companions], or he calls any lady as Umm-ul-Mominin [mother of the faithful], who is not among the Azwaj-i-Mutahharat [wives of the Holy Prophet], or calls any person from among the Ahl-i-Bait [members of the family of the Holy Prophet], although he is not one of the Ahl-i-Bait of Nabi-i-Akhir-uz-Zaman, or calls his place of worship as masjid [mosque], then he will be liable to punishment. This punishment can be 3 years imprisonment and fine can also be imposed. Any person who calls himself Ahmadi belonging to Qadiani or Lahori group, if he gives azan [call for prayers] before prayers, although orally or in writing like Muslims, then he will be liable to punishment which can be 3 years' imprisonment or fine or both.

Under Section 298C, any person who calls himself Ahmadi belonging to Qadiani or Lahori group, poses as a Muslim directly or indirectly, or describes his faith as Islam or propagates such a belief or invites others to such faith orally or in writing or injures the religious feelings of Muslims, he will be liable to the punishment which will be 3 years' imprisonment. These crimes will be cognizable offenses and not bailable.

Ghaffar Khan Returns to Peshawar From Kabul

BK071214 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The frontier gandhi, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, is back in Peshawar after 5 weeks of treatment in Kabul. He told newsmen on his return that he is still not feeling better.

'Savage' Soviet Offensive in Panjsher Valley Hit

GF051151 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 28 Apr 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Soviet Advance in Afghanistan"]

[Text] While referring to the unusual intensity of the Soviet attack in the Panjsher valley, the spokesman of the U.S. State

Department said that during the past 5 years it has been routine for the Soviet Union to put more effort into their operations in Afghanistan at the start of the spring season every year, but that the brutal attacks they have launched this time in slaughtering urban and rural populations is beyond understanding. The details of the havoc wrought by the Soviet forces in the Panjsher valley, which have appeared in the American press based on the reports of Western news agencies are, to say the least, shocking. Before advancing into the valley, the Soviet forces carried out a systematic bombardment of the villages that the Soviets suspected of being secret strongholds of the Afghan mujahidin. In this battle they used a force of 1,400 men, including an armored unit, 250 tanks, 150 armored carriers, and 60-80 helicopter gunships.

One can see from this to what length the Soviets have gone in their savage military operations in Afghanistan. Although, contrary to the claims of Kabul radio, the Afghan mujahidin have not accepted the claim that the Panjsher valley is now completely under the control of the Soviet forces but it cannot be denied that the Soviet Union has launched a full-scale brutal attack on the central base of the Afghan mujahidin located north of Kabul. This has strengthened our belief that Soviet Union has now come out of their bases in the cantonments and cities and decided to invade the villages which up until now been under the control of the mujahidin.

The reason the Soviet Union did not turn their attention toward the vast, widespread, and impassable rural areas was that they wanted to strengthen their control over the urban areas first. Moreover, they did not want to involve their Army in a large-scale civil war. They also believed that the rural population which sheltered and aided the mujahidin would get fed up of the long civil war and will be forced to accept the rule of the Karmal regime. But things have not turned out that way. Instead, it is the Soviet Union which has gotten fed up with this long civil war and has involved itself in large-scale military operations and is destroying houses and crops of villagers to force them to surrender. This savage operation has another aim, which is to get the resistance forces of the Afghan population so frustrated with the circumstances that they will leave their homes and country or submit to the Karmal regime.

We do not think that the indirect talks will succeed in these circumstances. However, if the Afghan mujahidin succeed in neutralizing the new forceful Soviet military operations and prevent them from establishing themselves in the villages, then there will be no way out for the Soviet forces except to abandon the narrow Afghanistan valleys. This is the only way to make the Soviet Union express its readiness for a political solution to the Afghan problem.

Foreign Minister Ali Khan Visits Algeria, Libya

For Algiers and JANA coverage of Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan's visits to Algeria and Libya, including reports on his meetings with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and Libyan Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, see the Algeria and Libya subsections of the 8 May Middle East and Africa *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Briefs

PRC Delegation Visits — The 64-member Chinese good-will delegation, led by director general of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, Mr Shen Tu, arrived in Islamabad last night by a special Pakistan International Airlines plane. The delegation will participate in the celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the inauguration of air services between Pakistan and China. [Excerpt] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Apr 84 BK]

PRC Delegation Departs — The 64-member Chinese good-will delegation left Karachi this morning for Beijing after participating in celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan International Airlines' air links with China. A Pakistani good-will delegation will leave for Beijing next Thursday to participate in similar celebrations. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 3 May 84 BK]

Qatar Air Chief Departs — The commander of the Qatar Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad 'Abdallah Muhammad Al Thani, left Karachi for home yesterday evening after a week-long visit to Pakistan. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 1 May 84 BK]

FAO Technical Assistance — The FAO is to give to Pakistan this year technical assistance worth $7.3 million. More than half of this assistance will be given by the United Nations Development Program and the rest by the trust funds and technical cooperation program. [Excerpt] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 2 May 84 BK]

BANGLADESH

Indian Border Fence 'Counter to Cooperation Spirit'

BK080623 Dhaka BSS in English 0614 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Dhaka, May 8, BSS — The chiefs of the border security forces of Bangladesh and India had a meeting Monday to discuss the situation following exchange of fire last month over Indian attempts to erect barbed-wire fence.

The director general of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Major General Golam Muktadir and the director general of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) Mr. Birbal Nath led their respective sides at the meeting held at Haridaspur in the Indian territory.

The Bangladesh side made a strong plea at the talks, which lasted for two and a half hours, for observance of the 1975 border guidelines to maintain peace in the border areas, official sources said.

Bangladesh delegation at the talks also pointed out that the barbed-wire fence and the watch towers being built by India ran counter to the mutually agreed guidelines and the spirit of friendly cooperations between the two countries.

Official sources said that the two sides had, however, agreed to hold frequent flag meetings at all levels whenever required to deal with border problems and defuse tensions.

Proposal on Parliamentary Elections Approved

BK080316 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, the military government has agreed to the opposition demand to hold parliamentary elections before the presidential poll. At a meeting presided over by General Ershad, the Council of Ministers approved the opposition proposal. The elections are likely to be held in November. The actual date will be announced shortly.

SRI LANKA

Trade Deficit Worsens, Export Earnings Up in 1983

BK011250 Colombo SUN in English 19 Apr 84 p 1

[By Jennifer Henricus]

[Text] Sri Lanka's trade deficit in 1983 was Rs. 16,838 million, a 1,087-million rupee increase over the deficit of 1982. According to the Central Bank the total export earnings for the year was 25,183 million, while expenditure on imports aggregated to Rs. 42,020 million.

Despite the large trade deficit export, earnings had shown a significant increase in 1983 over the previous year's earnings. According to the bank's statistics the increase in 1983 was 3.6 billion rupees.

The increases were in earnings from tea, rubber, coconut, textile and garments, and mineral exports, while earnings from petroleum products and minor agricultural products decreased.

The export earnings from tea during 1983 were Rs. 8,295 million in comparison to Rs. 6,342 million the previous year, with a substantial increase of 19 per cent. This was despite a decrease in the volume of teas exported during the year. According to available statistics the volume of tea decreased sharply from 181 million kilos in 1982 to 157.9 kilos in 1983. The average export price, however, increased by 37 per cent.

Among the other major export earners, rubber earned Rs. 2,852 million with an increase of 12 per cent over the previous year's earnings, while coconut showed an increase of 17 per cent in its earnings amounting to Rs. 1,921 million. Minor agricultural exports, however, declined by nine per cent in SDR terms, and this is chiefly attributed to the reduction in exports of areca nuts, cinnamon, cardamoms, sesame seeds, betel leaves and unmanufactured tobacco.

In the import sector the value of imported rice declined by 160 million rupees while the value of sugar imports increased significantly from Rs. 970 million to Rs. 1,985 million, largely due to higher volumes imported for the purpose of holding buffer stocks.

The value of wheat grain imports too increased from Rs. 1,787 million to Rs. 2,340 million. Except for rice, import outlays by the Food Commissioner's Department also indicated significant increases.

Syrian Economics Minister Confers With Velayati

LD072018 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA — The visiting Syrian Minister of Economics Salim Yasin, in a meeting here today with the minister of foreign affairs, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, discussed expansion of bilateral economic relations parallel to the political relations.

The Syrian minister who arrived here Sunday night heading a delegation, referring to joint campaign of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria against imperialism and Zionism, called for further development of mutual ties.

The Iranian foreign minister said that friendship between the two countries was of great importance in the region. He stressed that in the light of plots of world oppressors in the region, there was a need for more decisive campaign of the progressive forces against plots of the oppressors.

Khamene'i on Hague 'Plot,' Gulf Naval 'Intrusions'

LD072212 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i on a visit to the northern provinces of the country arrived at Now Shahr, Mazandaran Province, this morning.

Commenting on the success achieved by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the International Court of Justice at The Hague, the president said the revolutionary nation of Iran would not yield to any imposed international plots and rejected all such illegal moves.

Addressing the people of the city, the president further noted that Iran had to present her case at The Hague, and it expected the court to act independently "or else Iran would react decisively."

The president also visited the marine base in Now Shahr and attended a ceremony marking the completion of the first year of the marine cadets' military training.

At the ceremony the president, noting the vital importance of the Iranian naval force, said the big world powers thought they were justified to force their presence in regional waters on the people of these regions while their instrusion violated the sovereign rights of the countries in the area, he said. He said the Islamic Revolution would stand against all such aggressions and the naval forces should prepare themselves for the encounter.

Meanwhile President Khamene'i also visited the Nekka power station in Mazandaran Province and commended its staff for their efforts.

Khamene'i Remarks Detailed

LD071234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpts] Our correspondent reports on President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's trip to the Mazandaran Province:

President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i arrived at the Now Shahr airport at 0900 today to review various issues of the Mazandaran Province. He was formally welcomed by Hojjat ol-Eslam (Rowhani), the imam's representative in Mazandaran; Mr (Mazhdara), the governor general; the Friday imams of Now Shahr and Chalus; military and security commanders; a group of the clergy; families of martyrs, and several local officials.

In an interview with a correspondent of the Central News Unit, Sari center, the President commented on the purpose of his trip to Mazandaran, saying: The aim is to meet the militant, friendly, and very kind people of this province. In view of the importance of agriculture, industry, and military in the Mazandaran Province, we shall review various problems of this province to find a solution for them.

In reply to a question asking the president to express his views on the stance of the Hague Court of Justice in connection with the U.S. violations, Mr Khamene'i said: In this connection, the stance of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been announced already. We have referred some issues to the Hague Court of Justice for arbitration. We have proved in the political arena and on the battlefield that we are independent, and if we were to feel that the Hague Court of Justice is not independent and is being influenced, we would take some decisive measures.

Afterwards, President Khamene'i and his entourage arrived at the center for teaching advanced marine science in Now Shahr in order to take part in the graduation ceremony of the students. Addressing the personnel of this center on the potentials of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, Mr Khamene'i, said: Thank God, today the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are in the arena of battle and self-sacrifices. Today, our Armed Forces have become a reality which has attracted the attention of all through bravery, faith, and achievements.

Mr Khamene'i added: Today the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is engaged in some activities which are totally opposed by global arrogance. The president went on: A strong force must be deployed in the seas and on the shores of the Islamic Republic of Iran so as to make the pirates, who have come from various corners of the world to these regions under the guise of armed forces of the major powers to make trouble for the region, fully reckon with such a force.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, continuing his speech at the graduation ceremony, stressed: What is the acceptable excuse for an American fleet, or a British, French, or Russian fleet to come from thousands of kilometers away to the vital areas and breathing space of this region and try to make themselves stronger every day?

While emphasizing that our revolution is standing against aggressions of global arrogance with all its might, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: It is the religious motive which has turned this nation into battle-hardened warriors who can withstand any aggression.

After the speech, students and personnel of the Marine Science Training Center of Now Shahr paraded before the glorious Koran, a picture of the imam of the nation, and the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. Afterwards, President Khamene'i and his entourage left Now Shahr for Sari at 1130 and arrived in Sari at dinner time today.

Friday Imams Congress Session Continues

More on Musavi Address

GF071113 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpts] The world congress of Friday imams continued its deliberations yesterday afternoon. At this meeting, after the recitation from the Koran, Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, gave an speech.

The prime minister in the beginning of his speech spoke of the search of the Islamic Republic for uniting as one the whole of the Islamic nation throughout the world.

The prime minister in another part of his speech recounted the noticable achievements of the Islamic Republic in combating the remnants of the administrative system of the past regime and the miraculous filling of some 10,000 important administrative posts after the revolution despite the disturbances created by the minigroups which claimed to be pro-Islamic but in fact placed more importance on the United States than on Islam.

The prime minister also spoke of the grand achievements of the Islamic Republic in face of the aggressive Iraqi Army, and the start of the great industrial surge, including the great Sar Chashmeh copper complex, without the help of a single foreign expert.

Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi also answered questions from the participants of the world congress of the Friday imams. In reply to a question about how he solves problems stemming from the war, the prime minister said that Iran had the problem of 1.5 million war refugees and 1.5 million Afghan refugees and that this refugee problem is being solved by the people themselves. For example, he said, we have reactivated industry. The prime minister, while referring to the fact that our enemy had borrowed $36 billion from the Arab states, said that this happened while we in 1982 after the revolution, as for as domestic matters were concerned, had reached the end of our financial reserves. However, by conserving and economizing, we were able to pay our debts and then in the opinion of [word indistinct] became the first country in the world that in addition to financing a war had started its industry, to such an extent that by the middle of the year 1362 [21 March 1983 to 20 March 1984], we had achieved 22 percent growth in our industry. However, the prime minister noted that all of this was achieved with the support of the people.

Mr Musavi was asked about the Tudeh Party. Mr Musavi in reply to this, said that after the revolution many groups appeared in Iran which had to be confronted and thrown out by the people. Of these groups, the last one was the Tudeh Party. The Tudeh Party had a history of spying for the Soviet Union; we had more information on this than we actually disclosed. They were arrested at once. Some were tried, and others will be tried soon. A short while ago you must have seen an interview on Tehran television with Ehsan Tabari, one of the theoreticians of the Tudeh Party and one of the oldest members. This was one of the successes achieved by the Islamic Republic.

The prime minister, in reply to a question of whether Iran would retaliate against the Persian Gulf states which are aiding Iraq, said: Some of these countries have changed their ways. We expect all of them will do so.

The prime minister, in reply to a question on reports that Iran purchases arms from Israel, said that such foreign propaganda has been going on the past 2 or 3 years and is aimed at maligning us in the eyes of Muslims. If you go to the fronts you will see what kind of weapons our soldiers were using.

We must say that Israel owes us $1.5 billion for the oil sold to that country during the shah's regime. So far no response has been received from Israel on this subject.

The prime minister was asked about the country's reaction to the inimical attitude of France toward Iran. The prime minister said: We will break the French hand in the Middle East and the Islamic countries.

Six Commissions Formed

GF080743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 May 84

[Excerpt] The second international congress of Friday and congregational imams continued its work yesterday afternoon by forming six commissions. These commissions are: a commission on foundations for Islamic unity; a commission on ways of realizing Islamic unity; a commission on obstacles to Islamic unity; a commission on the Islamic Revolution and Islamic unity; a commission on the issues of the Islamic Revolution of Iran; and a commission on various other topics.

The Friday imam of Hamburg's mosque, Hojjat ol-Eslam Moqaddam, who is in overall charge of the commissions of the second international congress of Friday and congregational imams, discussed the aims of the various commissions, saying: The commissions will be reviewing predetermined topics that have been noted in the agenda of the congress. After conclusions are reached, we will be able to draw up a resolution to be issued at the close of the congress.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Bureaucratic Corruption

LD080857 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA — Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday called [on] Central Herast Headquarters (safe guarding corps in government offices) not to allow bureaucratic corruption, and urged them to pave the way for a sound administration in the Islamic Republic.

In a meeting with members of the headquarters here, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that one of the specific characteristics of the Islamic Republic was its unique attitude towards governmental administration and its personnel and former regime's institutions.

World revolutions have usually entailed severe purging, even with bloodshed, and some of the purged employees from offices are sometimes even sent to concentration camps and would remain there until their death.

But, he stressed, the Islamic Republic did not feel this [is] appropriate with Islam since it believed that the former system comprised Muslims who were naturally inclined towards righteousness.

The Majlis speaker said that employees who worked with the former regime and were cooperating with the Islamic Republic were rendering sincere services, warning the headquarters of a handful people who intended to create obstacles by not working properly. He admitted that with [the] present inflation rate and other economic problems caused as a result of the Iraqi imposed war, to provide a satisfactory standard of living for government employees was not an easy task, adding that a sound planning and its serious implementation would remove such problems to a great deal.

Khomeyni Receives Martyrs' Families at Jamaran Mosque
LD071243 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 7 IRNA — Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, today at Jamaran Mosque received a group of families of martyrs from Semirom and (Dahaqan), in Esfahan Province, and Meybod in Yazd Province.

During the meeting in which the Friday prayer leaders of these cities were also present, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Kharrubi, the special representative of the imam in the Martyrs Foundation and Tehran Majlis deputy, praised the massive turnout in the recently held Majlis elections. He urged them to show the same enthusiasm for the second phase of the elections for Majlis. In another part of his speech Hojjat ol-Eslam Kharrubi praised the work of the members of the construction jihad in building the 14 kms-long road in the Iraqi Majnun Island, which is now in the hands of the Islamic combatants. He also lauded the sacrifice of the families of martyrs and also those missing. At the end the iman responded to the enthusiasm of the visitors.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,719
LD071743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 84

[Communique No 1,719 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours the fighting forces of Islam in Piranshahr, Sardasht and Hajj 'Umran operational sectors defended the area and the positions under their control. In Chuman-Mustafa Region a number of enemy infantry forces suffered some deaths and casualties as the result of our forces' fire. In the same region our forces fired at enemy vehicles, stopping their movement. In Hajj 'Umran operational zone the exchange of fire was more intense than on other fronts. In Panjwin operational zone two of our patrol groups were sent to enemy positions, completing their mission and capturing four light weapons and two radios intact.

In Bakhtaran and Ilam operational zones our forces' fire foiled enemy units' attempts to infiltrate, and set on fire and destroyed some enemy vehicles.

In the southern operational zone exchanges of artillery and mortar fire continued. The exchanges of fire were more intense in Kushk, Hoseyniyeh, Garmdasht and the Majnun Islands. Our fighters' vigilance and incessant efforts prevented enemy infantry units from infiltrating our forces' lines. Also, our forces' fire destroyed one ammunition depot and one heavy vehicle belonging to the forces of Saddam. West of the Arvand Rud, 20 personnel bunkers of the forces of Saddam were destroyed and a number of Iraqi mercenaries killed.

During the past 24 hours Abadan again came under the Iraqi criminals' heavy weapons fire, which damaged one of the city's hospitals and martyred one of the hospital's employees, and wounded two others. Also, six buildings in the town were destroyed and four different fires broke out.

District Guards Corps Commander Killed in Crash
GF071740 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps commander of the 9th district met his maker in a driving accident.

According to a report from the Central News Unit, Brother Kolahduzan, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in the Provinces of Fars, Bushehr, Hormozgan and Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, accompanied by members of the 9th District Command Council, was on his way to Bandar 'Abbas to attend to corps affairs when he was martyred, his automobile colliding with a tractor trailer at km 35 on the highway to Bandar 'Abbas. In this collision, which took place at (?1700) yesterday when the car attempted to pass the trailer on the Bandar 'Abbas Highway, Hojjat ol-Eslam (Maysani), an official of the imam's office in the Corps, was also injured, and the driver of the automobile was martyred.

It may be recalled that last Friday, Brother Kolahduzan addressed the hezbollahi people of this city before the sermon which was his last speech to the people of Shiraz. Brother Haj Mojtaba Kolahduzan joined the Corps after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in the early days of the establishment of the Guards Corps in order to fulfill his obligation to Islam and to safeguard the sacred gains of the Islamic Revolution. He dedicated himself to serving the cause of Islam and the Islamic nation. Finally, he attained the path of martyrdom and rushed to his maker.

The Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, issued a communique condoling with and greeting the Muslim nation of Iran and the Islamic combatants on the martyrdom of the Brother Guard Kolahduzan.

Commander 'Annihilated'

GF071800 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] According to our correspondent, Mojtaba Kolahduzan, the commander of the Guard Corps 9th District, was annihilated. It is being reported that the strugglers and the brave children of the Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad tribes have started a widespread struggle against the criminal guards. Following the arrest of around 45 leaders of the southern tribes, activities to crush the criminal guards have intensified. The radio of Khomeyni's regime did not mention the time or the location of the death of the commander of Guards Corps 9th District, stating that he was killed in a military mission.

Mojtaba Kolahduzan was the commander of the Guards Corps in the provinces of Bushehr and Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad. It is being reported that he was killed by a guardsman connected with the southern tribes. Khomeyni's regime, in order to stop the further weakening of the Guards' morale, now describes the death of any of the commanders of this anti-nationalist corps killed at the hands of armed strugglers as martyrdom at the war fronts!

Causeway Construction on Majnun Island Televised

LD072002 Tehran IRNA in English 1907 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA — In a five-minute film, the Iranian television for the first time showed the construction of a 14km-long 17m-wide causeway linking Iranian soil to the Iraqi Majnun Island, captured in late February in Operation Kheybar. The construction of the causeway, named Seyyed-o-Shohada, was done under artillery fire in several weeks.

Large trucks and road construction machines were busy on the road, which was being built by members of the construction jihad. There was traffic of military vehicles under difficult strategic and geographical conditions on the causeway.

The television commentator said six construction jihad workers had been martyred during their work on the road.

The Majnun Islands were captured last February in Operation Kheybar and despite numerous heavy Iraqi counter-attacks, the Iraqi forces failed to recapture them from the Islamic forces.

There is an estimated eight billion barrels of oil in the Majnun Islands.

Iraqi Intruder Plane Flees Antiaircraft Fire

LD071958 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1815 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 7, IRNA — An Iraqi intruder plane, which violated Islamabad-e Gharab's airspace in western Iran at 10:00 hours local time [0630 GMT] today, was immediately chased off by the antiaircraft gunfire of the Islamic forces.

The enemy war plane escaped without carrying out any mission.

Briefs

Pakistan's Ambassador Meets Najafi — Tehran, May 7 IRNA — The Pakistani ambassador to Tehran, Abdul Malik Khattak, at the end of his diplomatic service in the Islamic Republic of Iran, here today met and talked with the minister of culture and higher education, Mohammad 'Ali Najafi. Najafi expressed hopes that the articles of the recently signed cultural agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan would be implemented as soon as possible. The Pakistani ambassador expressed his appreciation for the cooperation of the Islamic Republic Government of Iran and also the cultural officials of the country and said that he was happy to be in Iran at a time of establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 7 May 84 LD]

Tehran-Austria Flight — Tehran, April 30, IRNA — The Austrian air line started its flights from Tehran to Vienna and vice-versa Monday morning. Austria's ambassador to Tehran, expressing satisfaction over the establishment of the flight, described it as a prelude for further cooperation between the two countries. The Austrian air lines will conduct two weekly flights with DC-9 planes to carry 126 passengers. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 0743 GMT 1 May 84 LD]